(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) As per the agreement reached, both countries agreed to open their respective airspaces for overflights for th airlines of both countries. The designated airlines of both sides are now entitled to operate 5, 3, and 4 services/week on Karachi-Mumbai, Karachi-Delhi and Lahore-Delhi v.v. routes respectively. The agreement helped both PIA and Indian Airlines to start operations between the two countries.

New International Airport at Ludhiana

3184. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have a Greenfield International Airport at Ludhiana;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to develop/upgrade certain infrastructure necessary for the Airport;

(c) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Punjab to allow International flights from Halwara Air Force Station; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) There is a proposal from the State Government of Punjab to construct an international airport at Halwara airbase of Indian Air Force (IAF) near Ludhiana. The State Government has appointed a Consultant to conduct a pre-feasibility study of the project. Ministry of Defence has already conveyed their no objection to the proposal. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is likely to depute a team of officials for survey of the proposed site.

Upgradation of Patna and Gaya Airports

3185. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to encourage pilgrim tourism during this year of 2550the anniversary of Lord Buddha's Mahaparinirvana from the countries with large Buddhist population;